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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,204	09/15/2003	Vipul Ved Prakash	6747P004	2360
8791	7590	06/08/2007		
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN 1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-4040			EXAMINER HOANG, HIEU T	
			ART UNIT 2152	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/08/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/663,204	Applicant(s) PRAKASH, VIPUL VED	
	Examiner Hieu T. Hoang	Art Unit 2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the communication filed on 09/15/2003.
2. Claims 1-18 are pending and presented for examination.

Specification

3. The blank spaces in [0013] and [0024] are objected to. Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show step 408 of fig. 4 and step 620 of fig. 6 as described in the specification (par. [0017] and [0023]). Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the

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remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

5. Claims 1-19 are objected to because of the following informalities.
6. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the client" on line 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It seems that the applicant refers to a client in the previous "a set of clients". For examining purpose, the limitation "a set of clients" on line 4 will be treated as "a client."
7. Claims 7 and 13 are objected to for the same rationale as above. Appropriate correction is required.
8. Claims 1-19 are objected to because the preambles in the claims are non-descriptive. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

9. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

10. Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. A computer-readable medium, as defined in

the specification as transmission type media such as digital and analog communication links ([0031]), has to be some kind of signal traveling along the transmission links and is therefore non-statutory subject matter. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

11. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

12. Claims 1, 7, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Consider the limitation "delivering the publication to an inbox associated with the client if the publication is registered," this limitation contradicts with the specification that shows two possibilities, e.g. fig. 5 steps 512 and 514, wherein the message or the publication is moved to the user's inbox if the publication is registered and on subscribed list only; on the other hand, if the publication is registered and unsubscribed, the message is blocked or moved to spam folder. Appropriate correction is required.

13. Claims 4, 10, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims recite "each client to ... deliver the publication if the content publisher has been authenticated." It is not clear what

delivering means and where the publication is delivered to, since the client is the ultimate email receiver. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu (US 2005/0015455), further in view of Kirsch (US 2004/0177120).

16. For claim 1, Liu discloses a method, comprising:

- maintaining a database of registered electronic publications for a plurality of clients (fig. 1, data center 102 contains registered information on senders that are in the white list, black list, or unconfirmed, a white list containing information of senders is read as registered electronic publications);

- configuring a set of clients to query the database to determine if a publication received from a content publisher is registered (fig. 2, steps 200-202, [0064], email client receives and sends a Check Sender Request to the data center 102 to determine if the sender is in a white list); and

Liu does not explicitly disclose:

- delivering the publication to an inbox associated with the client if the publication is registered.

However, Kirsch discloses:

- delivering the publication to an inbox associated with the client if the publication is registered (step 32, step 62, step 34, deliver the message if the sender is in the white list or that sender's reputation is good, which means that the sender has been registered as a trusted distributor by many other users).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Liu and Kirsch to allow a user to check whether received emails are sent from a trusted source (Kirsch, abstract).

17. For claims 7 and 13, the claims are rejected for the same rationale as in claim 1.

Liu-Kirsch further discloses a computer readable medium or a memory storing instructions executed by a computer (Liu, fig. 1, data center is a computer with a CPU, a memory, and an operating system)

18. For claims 2, 8, and 14, Liu-Kirsch discloses the invention substantially as in claims 1, 7, and 13. Liu-Kirsch further discloses receiving input from a user of the client to place the publication on one of a subscribed and unsubscribed list (Kirsch, [0025], black list and white list can be modified by a user).

19. For claims 3, 9, and 15, Liu-Kirsch discloses the invention substantially as in claims 2, 8, and 14. Liu-Kirsch further discloses the delivering includes delivering if the publication has not been placed on the unsubscribed list (Kirsch, [0025], fig. 2 steps 32-34).

20. For claims 4, 10, and 16, Liu-Kirsch discloses the invention substantially as in claims 1, 7, and 13. Liu-Kirsch further discloses configuring each client to perform an authentication operation to authenticate the content publisher; and to deliver the publication if the content publisher has been authenticated (Kirsch, [0035], authentication of a sender by using a signature in conjunction with some other information, Liu, fig. 2, step 200-202, emails from a sender is passed on to a server for inspection).

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21. For claims 5, 11, and 17, Liu-Kirsch discloses the invention substantially as in claims 4, 10, and 16. Liu-Kirsch further discloses the authentication operation comprises sending authentication information received from the content publisher to the server for verification of the authentication information (Liu, fig. 2, step 200-202, emails from a sender is passed on to a server for inspection, fig. 8 step 802, receive authorization code, Kirsch, [0035], authentication of a sender by using a signature in conjunction with some other information).

22. For claims 6, 12, and 18, Liu-Kirsch discloses the invention substantially as in claims 1, 7, and 18. Liu-Kirsch further discloses the publication includes a mass email publication (Kirsch, [0058], bulk email senders' information or signatures may be stored in the central database 66 of fig. 1).

Conclusion

23. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Malcolm. US 2005/0033810. Interceptor for non-subscribed bulk emails.
- Goldman. US 2003/0233418. Reducing spam.
- Smith et al. US 2005/0015448. Updating email access list.
- Michael. US 2002/0188689. Electronic mail.

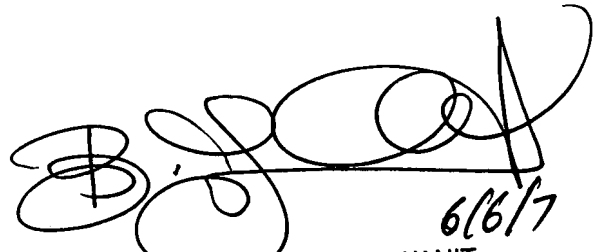
24. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hieu T. Hoang whose telephone number is 571-270-1253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571-272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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